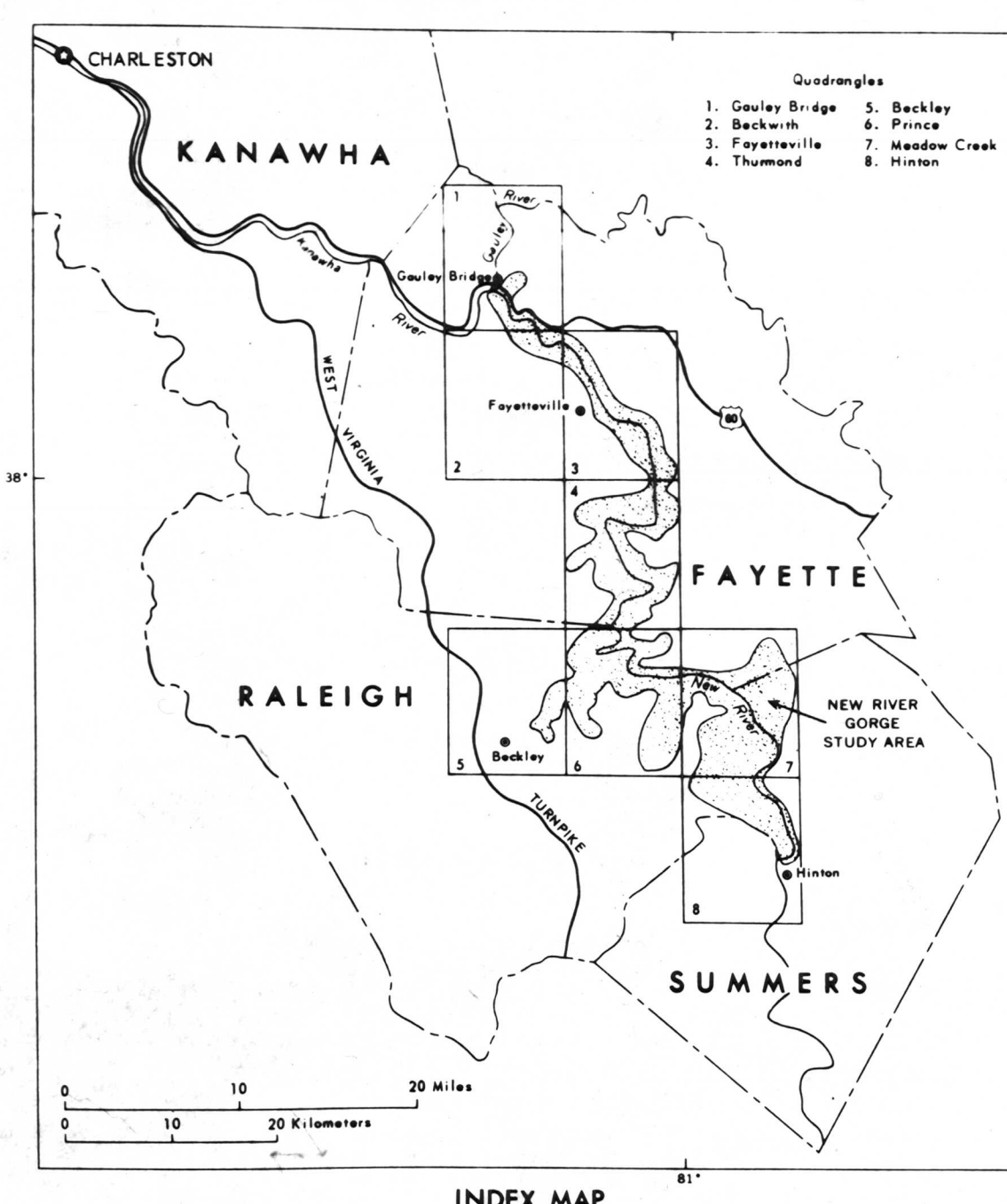


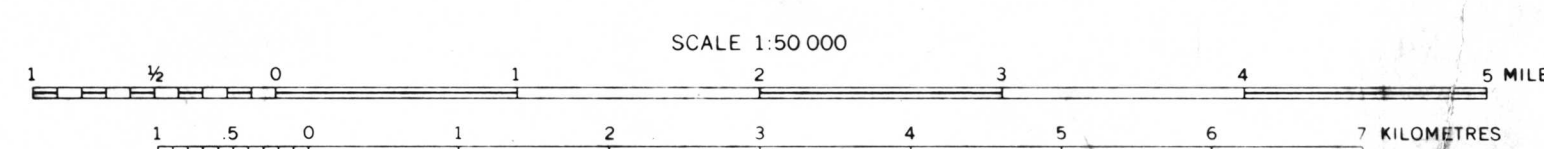
EXTENT OF MINING AND RESERVE BASE AREAS IN SEWELL COAL BED  
By  
Alice V. Brocoum



- EXPLANATION
- Proposed Wild and Scenic River boundary
  - Proposed National Park boundary
  - Proposed common boundary
  - Coal bed outcrop
  - Indefinite coal bed outcrop
  - ▨ Extent of underground mining (based on available mine maps)
  - ▨ Strip mined areas
  - ▨ Reserve base area



EXTENT OF MINING AND RESERVE BASE AREAS IN FIRE CREEK COAL BED  
By  
Peter C. Mory and Alice V. Brocoum



MAPS SHOWING EXTENT OF MINING IN THE FIRE CREEK AND SEWELL COAL BEDS, NEW RIVER GORGE STUDY AREA,  
FAYETTE, RALEIGH, AND SUMMERS COUNTIES, WEST VIRGINIA

By  
Peter C. Mory and Alice V. Brocoum  
U. S. Bureau of Mines  
1977

West Virginia (New River Gorge area). Resources V.S. 1977  
sheet 1  
Fig 1

Discussion  
Sewell

The Sewell coal bed has been mined extensively within the study area because of its excellent quality and uniform thickness.

New River Gorge area

Coal reserve base ..... 4,928,000 tons  
Coal reserves ..... 2,464,000 tons

About 8,360 acres of the study area are underlain by the Sewell, but at least 7,370 of these acres have been mined. A total of 4,928,000 tons of reserve base occur in several separate areas. Some unmined Sewell coal within the study area is too thin to be included in the reserve base (Mory, Brocoum, and Beers, 1977).

Production figures indicate that the coal south of Keeney Creek has been mined underground, although mine maps are not available. For this reason, the extent of mining cannot be delineated.

North of Fayetteville, the Sewell coal bed thins irregularly and consequently has been mined less extensively. An underground mine on Marr Branch is the only mine operating within the study area in the Sewell coal bed.

Fire Creek

Historically, the Fire Creek coal bed in the New River Gorge study area is second in production to the Sewell coal bed. The coal is low- to medium-volatile, low in ash and sulfur, and of metallurgical quality.

Thickness of the bed is irregular and has hindered mining.

Wild and Scenic River area

Coal reserve base ..... 8,648,000 tons  
Coal reserves ..... 4,324,000 tons

National Park area

Coal reserve base ..... 14,668,000 tons  
Coal reserves ..... 7,475,000 tons

About 8,350 acres of the study area are underlain by the Fire Creek of minable thickness, but 5,430 of these acres have been mined by underground methods. A reserve base of 2,011,000 tons occurs in one large block within the proposed National Park boundary. A mining feasibility study was made for this block by the U. S. Bureau of Mines, (Mory, Brocoum, and Beers, 1977). Based on a U. S. Bureau of Mines drill hole about 3.5 miles (5.6 km) southeast of Gauley Bridge, an estimated 3,112,000 tons of reserve base lie below river level. The remaining reserve base of 9,545,000 tons is in smaller isolated areas.

References cited

Mory, P. C., Brocoum, A. V., and Beers, A. H., 1977, Coal reserve study, New River Gorge, West Virginia: Washington, D. C., U. S. Bur. Mines, 31 p.

